

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /072 W  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2188

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, CY  
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF ARCHBISHOP: PROCESS BEGINS

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1. SUMMARY: ORTHODOX CHURCH ON AUG. 18 SET IN MOTION COMPLICATED  
PROCESS LEADING TO SELECTION, PROBABLY IN NOVEMBER, OF ARCHBISHOP  
TO FILL VACANCY LEFT BY DEATH OF MAKARIOS. LEADING, AND POSSIBLY  
ONLY, CONTENDER IS ACTING ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS, ACTIVIST,  
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POLITICIZED BISHOP OF PAPHOS. WHOEVER WINS, HIS RELIGIOUS AND  
POLITICAL INFLUENCE WILL NOT APPROACH THAT OF MAKARIOS, AND  
VIRTUAL UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN CYPRUS PROBABLY HAS ENDED.  
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2. ACTING ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS ISSUED ENCYCLICAL AUG 18 ANNOUNCING THAT ELECTION OF "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES," FIRST STEP IN PROCESS LEADING TO FINAL SELECTION OF NEW ARCHBISHOP, WILL BE HELD OCT 2. THESE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET IN APPOINTED PLACES ON OCT 30 TO ELECT 66 "GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES" WHO LATER WILL PARTICIPATE IN FINAL VOTE FOR ARCHBISHOP. THERE IS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TIMING, BUT EARLIEST DATE ON WHICH ELECTION COULD BE COMPLETED IS NOV 23. BARRING UNFORSEEN DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED IN LATE NOVEMBER.

3. SUFFRAGE IN FIRST-STEP ELECTION OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES EXTENDS TO MALE MEMBERS OF CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING WHO ARE 21 YEARS OR OLDER. CANDIDATES FOR POSITION OF REPRESENTATIVES MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS AND MAY BE EITHER CLERGYMEN OR LAYMEN. NUMBER OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES EACH COMMUNITY MAY ELECT VARIES ACCORDING TO SIZE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY; TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. PROVISIONS WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT REFUGEES FROM NORTH ARE INCLUDED IN VOTER LISTS.

4. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL ELECT 44 LAYMEN AND 22 CLERGYMEN TO ACT AS GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS, THE LARGER DISTRICTS HAVING CORRESPONDINGLY LARGER REPRESENTATION. ABOUT 20 HIGH CLERGYMEN, INCLUDING ALL BISHOPS, ARE EX-OFFICIO GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES, THUS DIVISION BETWEEN LAITY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CLERGY FOR FINAL VOTE WILL BE ABOUT EVEN. VOTING THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS IS BY SECRET BALLOT.

5. HISTORICALLY, SOME ELECTIONS OF ARCHBISHOPS IN CYPRUS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CONTESTED, BITTER, AND PROLONGED, BUT THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT SUCH WILL BE THE CASE IN CURRENT CONTEST. IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED THAT 50-YEAR-OLD ACTING ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS, WHO HAS ALREADY RECEIVED ENDORSEMENTS FROM PRO-MAKARIOS NEWSPAPER PHILELEFTHEROS AND FROM FARMERS UNION PEK, IS LEADING CANDIDATE. ONLY OTHER POSSIBLE CONTENDER SO FAR MENTIONED IS 47-YEAR-OLD BISHOP CHRYSANTHOS OF LIMASSOL.  
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6. COMMENT: CHRYSOSTOMOS, WHO IS INCREASINGLY CONSIDERED TO BE STRONG FRONT RUNNER, HAS REPUTATION FOR BEING DYNAMIC, POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS AND FOR APPRECIATING THE WORLDLY REWARDS OF HIGH CHURCH OFFICE. HE IS NOT KNOWN FOR COMMITMENTS TO IDEOLOGY OR PRINCIPLE, BUT IS RATHER CONSIDERED A PRAGMATIST OR OPPORTUNIST, CAPABLE OF MELDING ULTRA NATIONALIST SLOGANS WITH LEFTIST RHETORIC. HE IS LIKELY TO LACK THE FINESSE AND ACUMEN OF MAKARIOS,

OF WHOM HE WAS A CLOSE COLLABORATOR AND SUPPORTER UNTIL RECENT STRAINS IN THE RELATIONSHIP, PERHAPS CAUSED BY CHRYSOSTOMOS' ACQUISITIVENESS, EMERGED. HE IS EXPECTED TO SEEK TO EMULATE THE LATE ARCHBISHOP IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS RELIGIOUS ROLE. THE TRADITION OF AN ARCHBISHOP'S EXERCISING POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN CYPRUS, AND WHOEVER REPLACES MAKARIOS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO HAVE A DEGREE OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, MAKARIOS' DEATH MARKED THE END OF AN ERA. THE TREND TOWARD SECULAR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE IS STRONG, AND MAKARIOS PROBABLY WAS THE LAST INCARNATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN ONE MAN. WHOEVER SUCCEEDS HIM AS ARCHBISHOP WILL NOT INHERIT HIS POLITICAL FOLLOWING.  
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## Message Attributes

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